

North Dakota Parks & Recreation Department

NEWS RELEASE

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For more information, contact Gordon Weixel 701-328-5358

NDPRD employees' efforts recognized by NCTA

The North Country Trail Association recognized the efforts of two North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department employees at its annual conference hosted by the NCTA's Sheyenne River Valley Chapter, held July 30-Aug.2, in Valley City.

John Kwapinski, Fort Ransom State Park manager, and Kevin Stankiewicz, State Trail and Byways Coordinator, were presented the NCTA's "Friend of the Trail" award, which goes to an employee of a unit of government or organization whose leadership, accommodation and active cooperation have substantially benefited the North Country Trail.

Kwapinski was called an "invaluable agency partner of the Sheyenne River Valley Chapter." He was cited for maintaining his own certified segment of the trail within the boundaries of the park for hiking in the summer months and grooming the trail for cross-country skiing in the winter, along with helping promote and increase the mileage of the trail.

Stankiewicz's contributions include hosting a state agency partner meeting, taking the lead on promoting the 2009 NCTA conference, and attending nearly all NCTA events held in and throughout North Dakota.

"If we had a super supportive agency partner like Kevin in each state, the NCT would be much further along than it is," said Matt Davis, Regional Trail Coordinator for North Country Trail Association.

The North Country Trail Association, is a 501 ©3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop, maintain, preserve and promote the North Country National Scenic Trail through a national network of volunteers, chapters, partner organizations and government agencies.

For more information on the North Country Trail or hiking opportunities in North Dakota please call 701-328-5357 or visit [www. http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/trails/index.html](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov/recreation/trails/index.html)